

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 28, 1997

LB 806

pushed it across to Final Reading without knowing what the money was going to do, what the printout was. We haven't done the process the way we should do the process. The bill is still atrocious. It still does bad things to people in our state, it does lots of bad things to people in our state, and I don't see how this body can support that kind of legislation that's going to provide for 30 percent of our students having less than they had last year. What kind of a process is that, that we would do that to the students in our state? Nobody's proven to me that we are not efficient. Our schools in rural Nebraska are every bit as efficient as they are in Omaha or Lincoln or Grand Island or Fremont or wherever you're from, every bit as efficient. Those people that want to run down the Class I schools, that's crazy. Those Class I schools do an outstanding job of providing education for their kids and they aren't all that costly. They don't have all the fineries that they have in these cities, but they get the basic education. Believe me, they're at the core curriculum. They do it. They do it right. Those kids come out of those schools are prepared when they come to high school. They do better than our kids in the cities do. They come out with the ability to compete with anybody in the world. They're in demand all over this nation for...to come and work for people on the East Coast, on the West Coast. We take a backseat to no one with these kids that come out of the Class Is, no one. There are three states in this nation today that are trying to go back to the Class Is and they are California, Maine, and Colorado. They've seen the evil of their ways by trying to consolidate. Consolidation has not worked. It's not going to work because it costs more to do it. You have building costs and you have transportation costs, and it's always more expensive. Anybody that's done it knows it's more expensive. And this bill, while you talk about it being a finance bill, it's really a consolidation bill because it's going to force the closing of a bunch of those schools out there, you wait and see. It's just as sure as we're talking, schools are going to close because of this bill. And you can call them inefficient if you like, but you can't prove it to me because that's not true. They're every bit as efficient as anybody else. Senator Wesely talked about his son going to school and having to walk in the rain. I'd like to ask somebody from Lincoln how...when the last time was that a bond issue failed as far as building a new school in this town. It just hasn't. How many new schools have